

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for policy-based control of a communication network having a distributed architecture, including at least one heterogeneous communication network comprising messaging between network elements, comprising at least one policy enforcement point (PEP), one or more policy decision points (PDPs), which network elements provide for registering events, sending notifications of the occurrence of events and enforcing a policy upon said events if certain conditions are met, characterized in that said at least one PEP serves as a server towards at least one PDP, being a client.
2. A method for policy-based control of a communication network according to claim 1, wherein the policies of a PEP are available to the one or more PDPs.
3. A method for policy-based control of a communication network according to any one of the claims 1-2, wherein the one or more PDPs subscribe to one or more PEP policy enforcement capabilities outside the service domain of a PDP.
4. A method for policy-based control of a communication network according to any one of the preceding claims, where, in case of multiple PDPs having registered to the same event, a preference- or priority scheme is applied by the PEP for sending the notifications to one or more of said multiple PDPs.
5. A method for policy-based control of a communication network according to any one of the preceding claims, where, in case of a PEP receiving from multiple PDPs, multiple suggestions to enforce a policy, a preference- or priority scheme is applied by said PEP for selecting such a suggestion to enforce a policy upon.

6. A method for policy-based control of a communication network according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein, after the occurrence of the event, said messaging is synchronous, wherein event data are sent together with the notifications from
5 the PEP to the PDP.

7. A method for policy-based control of a communication network according to any one of the claims 1-5, wherein, after occurrence of the event, said messaging is asynchronous, wherein
10 event data are sent from the PEP to the PDP after a request by the PDP for sending said event data.

8. A method for policy-based control of a communication network according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the
15 method comprises the steps of:

- a PEP registering events that a PDPs can subscribe to;
- the PEP registering policy enforcements that the PDP may suggest to the PEP;
- the PDP obtaining said registered events;
- 20 - the PDP obtaining said registered policy enforcements;

9. A method for policy-based control of a communication network according claim 8, wherein the method further comprises the steps of:

- 25 - The PDP requesting a PEP to be notified of a specified event;
- The PDP requesting a PEP for a possibility to enforce a policy;
- The PEP notifying a PDP that the specified event has
30 occurred;
- The PDP suggesting to said PEP a policy enforcement appropriate for said specified event; and
- The PEP enforcing said policy enforcement.

10. A system for policy-based control of a communication network having a distributed architecture, including at least one heterogeneous communication network comprising messaging between network elements, comprising at least one policy enforcement point (PEP), one or more policy decision points (PDPs), which network elements provide for registering events, sending notifications of the occurrence of events and enforcing a policy upon said events if certain conditions are met, characterized in that said at least one PEP is arranged as a server towards at least one PDP, being a client.

11. A system for policy-based control of a communication network according to claim 10, having access means for making the policies of a PEP available to the one or more PDPs.

12. A system for policy-based control of a communication network according to any one of the claims 10-11, having subscribing means for the one or more PDPs to subscribe to one or more PEP policy enforcement capabilities outside their own service domain.

13. A system for policy-based control of a communication network according to any one of the claims 10-12, where, in case of multiple PDPs having registered to the same event, prioritizing means are provided for applying a preference- or priority scheme by the PEP for sending the notifications to one or more of said multiple PDPs.

14. A system for policy-based control of a communication network according to any one of the claims 10-13, where, in case of a PEP receiving multiple suggestions from multiple PDPs, selecting means are provided for applying a preference- or priority scheme by said PEP for selecting a suggestion to enforce a policy upon.

15. A system for policy-based control of a communication network according to any one of the claims 10-14, wherein synchronous messaging means are provided to enable, after the occurrence of the event, synchronous messaging, wherein event data
5 are sent together with the notifications from the PEP to the PDP.

16. A system for policy-based control of a communication network according to any one of the claims 10-14, wherein asynchronous messaging means are provided to enable, after
10 occurrence of the event, asynchronous messaging, wherein event data are sent from the PEP to the PDP after a request by the PDP for sending said event data.

17. A system for policy-based control of a communication
15 network according to any one of the claims 10-16, having a register arranged for:

- a PEP to register events that a PDP can subscribe to;
- the PEP to register policy enforcements that the PDP may suggest to the PEP;
- 20 - the PDP to obtain said registered events;
- the PDP to obtain said registered policy enforcements.

18. A system for policy-based control of a communication network according to any one of the claims 10-17, wherein PDPs
25 comprise stakeholders such as operators, application developers, vendors, governmental organizations, end-users or service providers.